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[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR STORING, TRANSMITTING AND RETRIEVING GRAPHICAL AND TABULAR DATA**

[75] **Inventors:** **A. Martin Rozmanith**, Cherry Hill, N.J.; **Anthony I. Rozmanith**, 118 W. Riding Dr., Cherry Hill, N.J. 08003

[73] **Assignee:** **Anthony I. Rozmanith**, Cherry Hill, N.J.

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **395/155; 395/148**

[58] **Field of Search** **364/518, 521, 523; 395/153-155, 161, 147, 148**

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Primary Examiner—Heather R. Herndon

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Synnestvedt & Lechner

[57]

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for rapid search and co-display of graphics and tabular data for both local and distributed computer systems. The method rapidly selects and displays related graphical and text information via a Graphical User Interface (GUI) from both a Graphical Relationship Database (GRDB) and large tabular database. An operator enters a query where previously encoded and stored graphics elements are selected, via a control program, from a local mass storage device and displayed with related text information on a local display. This method provides intelligent selection and display of graphics data based on an analysis by the system as to what graphics elements or images are required to satisfy the operator query, and how these elements are to be displayed in conjunction with related tabular (text) data.

28 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets

